

PERRIN AND EVAN PUT WYCOMBE IN THE MONEY

By MICHAEL KNOX; Corinthian Casuals 0, Wycombe Wanderers 4

AN outstanding display on the left flank by Dylan Evans was the decisive factor in Wycombe Wanderers' hard earned victory over an unusually stubborn Corinthian Casuals side in the Rothmans Isthmian League Division One on Saturday.

Wanderers had struggled for the first half hour on the bare Sandy Lane pitch, but then three crosses by Evans within 25 minutes each brought a score and then Casuals added another to this tally with an own goal five minutes from time.

So, for the second week running, the Blues collected £40 from the sponsors for winning by three or more goals. Indeed, they have now amassed an impressive £360 during the season and are now equal with Bishops Stortford as the chief money winners this term.

The final margin was somewhat unkind to Casuals, who grafted determinedly throughout the 90 minutes and showed a good deal more application than when they fell to a crushing 7-0 defeat at Loakes Park in January.

Their centre-half, Ian Longworth, looked a neat and compact player, while front-runners Kim Harris and Keith Eshelby kept the Wycombe defence on its toes. Against many other sides Casuals could well have earned a point.

But Wanderers' confidence in front of goal is so great that they put away a high proportion of their chances. Steve Perrin once again looked in razor sharp form and the amount of work he got through was extraordinary for a target man.

In midfield, Larry Pritchard was not as dominating as one has come to expect, but this was no doubt due to the poor standard of the pitch.

Virtually all one half of the field was bare with grass round the edges, but thankfully conditions were dry and Wycombe's short passing game was feasible. However, the unevenness of bounce was a handicap.

Wycombe manager Brian Lee made two changes before the match. Evans came back for Tony Price, who was playing for England Youth, while Terry Reardon, fully recovered from his ankle injury, replaced the injured Mick Hollifield.

Derek Gamblin, who received a knock against Chesham, filled the number 12 shirt, but was not required. The Wycombe defence had a comparatively quiet match, particularly in the second half, when Reardon, Pritchard and Phil Wood caught hold of the game in mid-field.

The Blues, with the sun at their backs, played towards the grassless end during the first half and made a slow start. If anything, they lacked motivation. The small crowd — mostly Wycombe supporters —

produced little atmosphere and the visitors took things a little easily, remembering the earlier massacre.

Casuals made the most of this sluggishness and Keith Eshelby fired only a foot wide following a poor clearance under pressure from Roger Grant. However, this was one of the few times they appeared likely to score.

But despite this, in the first half Casuals forced three corners to Wycombe's two, although they showed their lack of practice at set pieces when twice sending the flag kicks directly over the line for goalkeepers.

At the other end, goalkeeper Alan Cooling must have given his fellow defenders the flutters, by continually clearing the ball with his feet rather than gather-

ing it in his hands.

He was completely out of position when Perrin's narrow angled shot went across the goal face and then only saved Longworth's back pass at the second attempt. His indecision finally told in the 31st minute when Wycombe, not before time, opened the scoring.

Cooling went for a loose ball on the left side of the penalty area, well outside his six yard box. But Evans beat him to the ball, turned and crossed beautifully to the far post where Perrin rose well to head into the empty net.

Wanderers almost immediately stepped up the pace and Horseman, after forcing a corner, put in a spectacular overhead kick, which went just over the bar. 'Bodger', who was

spraying the ball around with his usual accuracy, also had a shot blocked just before half-time.

The only time 'keeper Kevin Raine was in the slightest trouble, came when Eshelby floated a shot just under the crossbar. But the goalkeeper, with an acrobatic leap, tipped the ball over for Casuals' third corner.

Wycombe opened the second half and immediately forced a corner. This was the signal for an all-out attack and within 10 minutes they had made virtually certain of their £40 bonus.

Evans was the man responsible. With great ball control and speed he continually took on and beat both Tony Franklin and Reg Payne and pulled back a series of crosses. From the first of these, in the 51st minute,

Horseman vollied wide when clear. But 60 seconds later, Evans, put away down the left, crossed to the near post where Perrin raced in to put the ball over the line from close range.

Casuals understandably wilted at this stage and it was no surprise when, in the 56th minute, Wycombe made it 3-0. Another Evans cross went to the far post, where the unmarked Horseman had time to control the ball before firing past Cooling.

Evans, whose marksmanship has never matched his approach play, had a shot saved by Cooling, while on the hour, Harris wasted a good chance with a weak drive.

Casuals' manager, Mickey Stewart, brought on Jim Phillips for Chris Hardy in the 67th minute, in an attempt to pull his

side back into the game. But they rarely troubled the visitors' back-line where Keith Mead and Dave Bullock developed a greater understanding.

A delightful move between Horseman and Perrin resulted in the latter firing in a fierce shot, which Cooling turned for a corner. But this apart, Wycombe seemed content to rest on their laurels.

So Wycombe's final goal, five minutes from the end, came as a surprise. Under intense pressure from Perrin, Jim Burke placed the ball wide of his own goalkeeper to give Wanderers a slightly flattering 4-0 victory.

CORINTHIAN CASUALS: A. Cooling; A. Franklin, P. King, R. Payne, I. Longworth, J. Burke, W. Leigh, R. Southam, K. Eshelby, K. Harris, C. Hardy (sub: J. Phillips, 67 mins).